

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM VIENNA DTD 23 MAY 1977 QTE

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IAEA (EKLUND, SIGVARD), SF

SUBJECT: IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 115410, (B) IAEA VIENNA 4118

1. SUMMARY: DG EKLUND VIEWS SOUTH AFRICAN STRATEGY
RE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP ON IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS AS ES-
SENTIALLY NEGATIVE. THEY APPEAR TO BE AWAITING ACTION OF
OTHERS AND GIVE NO INDICATION OF ANY INITIATIVE ON THEIR PARTY.
AFRICAN GROUP CURRENTLY CAUCUSING TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE
PREPARED WORK FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTION. ACTION REQUESTED:
GUIDANCE PRIOR TO FURTHER MEETING ON MAY 30 WITH SPONSORS
OF AMENDMENT.

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2. REFTEL (A) REACHED ME FOLLOWING MY RETURN FROM MEETING WITH
DIRECTOR GENERAL MAY 20. WHEN I EXPLAINED TO DR. EKLUND RA-
TIONALE BEHIND EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A COMPROMISE, HE INDICATED
THAT SHOULD ANY SUCH COMPROMISE BE ACHIEVED, HE WOULD, OF
COURSE, SUPPORT IT. HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE, HOWEVER, WOULD
BE FOR THE JUNE BOARD TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
QUESTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI. I TOLD HIM I WAS CONCERNED

THAT IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD GONE ON OVER PAST THREE MONTHS, SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE VIEWED AS OBVIOUS DELAYING TACTICS, WHICH COULD HAVE UNHELPFUL RESULTS. FURTHERMORE, WE COULD HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT END RESULT OF COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION WOULD NOT BE SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER BOARD THAN WAS DESIRABLE. WE AGREED WE BOTH SOUGHT SAME OBJECTIVE -- IT WAS A QUESTION OF TACTICS TO BEST ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

3. DURING MEETING I BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON CONSULTATIONS I HAD HELD INCLUDING MOST RECENT PROVIAE MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS OF EGYPT, NIGERIA AND AUSTRALIA IN ATTEMPT ESTABLISH WHETHER POSSIBILITY EXISTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON COMPROMISE FORMULA TO BE SUPPORTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR ADENIJI POINTED OUT DESIRABILITY FROM AFRICAN STANDPOINT OF DELINKING IN TERMS OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION THE ISSUES OF CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND THE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MORE QUITABLE REPRESENTATION FOR AFRIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA.

4. DURING THAT MEETING ON MAY 19 WHICH LASTED FOR TWO HOURS, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR CALIMED IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT SUGGESTED COMPROMISE WOULD INVOLVE THREE NEW ELECTED SEATS, TWO FROM AFRICA AND ONE FROM MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, IN ADDITION TO DESIGNATION OF AFRICAN COUNTRY AS REPLACEMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HE VIEWED AS HAVING "USURPED" AFRICAN-DESIGNATED SEAT ON BOARD.

5. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR AND I INDICATED THAT SUCH AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASE FROM 34 TO 38 BOARD SEATS, WE BELIEVED WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE BOARD TO 37 MEMBERS WITH SOUTH AFRICA REMAINING A DESIGNATED MEMBER THEREOF, BUT THAT THAT APPEARED TO US AS FAR AS WE COULD GO. IT WAS LEFT THAT NIGERIAN AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS WILL CAUCUS WITH ALL AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD DURING COMING WEEK AND WILL GIVE US THEIR RESPONSE MAY 30 WHEN WE WILL MEET AGAIN ALONG WITH PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR AND U.K. RESREP.

6. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTTEL (A), I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE DG AND INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ADVOCATE CREATION OF NINTH REGION AND INQUIRED REGARDING HIS PERCEPTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STRATEGY. HE REPLIED THAT HE FELT THEY HAD NO STRATEGY WHATSOEVER AND TO HIM THEY APPEARED SIMPLY TO BE STANDING STILL. IT WAS IN THE LIGHT OF THIS THAT HE WAS PROPOSING TO UNDERTAKE HIS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA BUT HE WAS BY NO MEANS SANGUINE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT ANY POSITIVE MOVEMENT.

7. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DG HAS NOT PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY IN CONSULTATIONS RELATED TO THIS ISSUE. THE MORE I LOOK INTO THIS MATTER THE MORE I BECOME CONVINCED THAT IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA ON THE BOARD AND RESULT IN ITS INCREASE TO A TOTAL OF 37 MEMBERS, WE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR SUCH A SOLUTION. CHANCES AT THE MOMENT ARE CERTAINLY NO BETTER THAN 50 - 50 AND IF THIS EFFORT FAILS, THE MOST LIKELY RESULT WILL BE PRECISELY WHAT DR. EKLUND SEEKS, NAMELY A REFERRAL OF THE MATTER TO A COMMITTEE WHICH I AM AFRAID WOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE MATTER OF IN-ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FROM THE AREAS OF AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA. I HAVE PRESUMED THAT DEPARTMENT BELIEVED IT TO BE IN INTEREST ALL CONCERNED THAT SOUTH AFRICA REMAIN AS CLOSELY TIED AS POSSIBLE TO THE IAEA.

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SHOULD THAT PERCEPTION BE ALTERED IN ANY WAY AS RESULT OF RECENT MEETINGS OF ADMINISTRATION LEADERS, I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ACCORDINGLY.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER PRIOR TO MAY 30 MEETING. STONE UNQTE VANCE

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